



MANX MODEL BOAT CLUB NEWSLETTER

May 2025

Failt ort, hello there once again.

I start with apologies to all for being quite late in getting this news letter out to you all.

Time flies by when I'm the driver of a train, or so the song goes from Chigley.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N-hQ6-biWoo>

Well, here we are in mid-May, and the fine spell of weather that began in March is still with us.

The website has the current events calendar and I've reproduced it within for those who have not seen it yet. Regular Sunday sailing has been continuing at Silverdale, and we have succeeded in having our first two competitions albeit that the Lake is having its annual weeding problem which the lack of rainfall and water flow expatiating the problem.

But first, some Vintage sailing news from Brian King and myself.

Brian and I managed to get our report into the VMYG Newsletter relating to our last sailing on the Mooragh in September. Brian also achieved a double, in having another of his reports regarding his schooner **Fleetwing** being published, which garnered much interest and lead to him finding a lot more information regarding that large charity shop find.

The information suggested that his yacht was actually based on the schooner **Fleetwing**, and a quick Google search yielded a good photograph plus some of the original schooner's history on Wikipedia.



With the information he was able to make a new set of sails and achieve a corrected schooner rig.

Here's the comparison between what his original setup was to how it is now, rigged as a schooner.



So on March 9th Brian and I went sailing on the Mooragh in glorious weather (the start of this long spell) to sail *Fleetwing* for the first time (as a schooner) and also to try out his 48 inch Manx yacht *Redwing* for its first sailing. *Redwing* is a free sailing yacht with weighted rudder, of which she has a full set, though she also needs wind.

It was quite the afternoon just watching this pair of truly vintage yachts attempting to sail with virtually no wind around and about the Mooragh. Well done to Brian for salvaging them and re-fitting them out again. Our next Vintage Sailing day is very soon, May 25th, 2pm, Mooragh, no doubt these two magnificent yachts will be about. But it would be nice to have some wind.



Redwing and Fleetwing on the water



Fleetwing and skipper Brian King

There follows a repeat of the current events calendar, also on the website.

Date	Event	Location	time
Mar			
Apr 6			
11/12	# Manx Car rally		
13			
20	# <i>Easter Sunday</i> Steering Comp	Silverdale	10:00
27			
May 4	<i>Vintage Yachting</i>	Mooragh Park	14:00
11	Tug Towing	Silverdale	10:00
18			
25	<i>Vintage Yachting</i>	Mooragh Park	14:00
26	# <i>TT starts</i>		
June 7	# <i>TT ends</i>		
8	Big Night Out	Onchan Park	18:30
15	Spithead Review	Silverdale	10:00
21/22	# <i>Parish Walk w/e</i>		
28	Mannanan 2025	Silverdale	All day
29	Mannanan 2025	Silverdale	All day
July 5	# <i>Tynwald Day</i>		
6	Onchan free sailing evening	Onchan Park	18:00
7	# <i>Tynwald day PH</i>		
13	Av-a-Go boats	Silverdale	11:00
	<i>pm Vintage Yachting</i>	Mooragh Park	14:00
19/20	# <i>Grand Fondo cycling</i>		
26/27	# <i>Southern Show</i>		
27	<i>Vintage Yachting</i>	Mooragh Park	14:00
Aug 3	Reserve Av-a-Go boats	Silverdale	11:00
8/9	# <i>Royal Manx Show</i>		
10	Onchan free sailing evening	Onchan Park	18:00
17	# <i>MGP starts</i>		
25	# <i>MGP ends</i>		
31	Onchan free sailing evening	Onchan Park	18:00
Sept 7	<i>Vintage Yachting</i>	Mooragh Park	14:00
14	Venetian Evening	Onchan Park	18:00
21	Reserve Ven Eve	Onchan Park	18:00
28			
Oct 5			
12			
Nov 15/16	Blackpool Show weekend	Blackpool	Long w/e

Vintage Yacht dates are provisional and will be confirmed prior to date.

Other Island events of importance are included.

Radio Controlled yachting takes place on the Mooragh every Sun, Weds and Fri pm's during the Spring, Summer and Autumn. All and any interested just turn up and express an interest.

Spare dates may be used if an event is postponed, or if a new event is decided upon such as a "Vehicles Runabout Day" etc.

Av-a-Go date at Silverdale 11 to 2 with the Club's small boats. Hopefully for visitors etc.

Steering Competition Sunday 20 April 2025, Silverdale

Sunday was forecast to be the best weather of the Easter holiday weekend and for once the forecasters were right with ideal conditions at Silverdale lake. 10 competitors took to the water in 3 classes for the steering competition (under 1m, over 1m and the mini class). Kim Holland would have made 11 competitors, however he was unwell the previous day so didn't take part, but thank you Kim for putting the course layout and scoring sheets together.



The first class was the over 1m competition with 6 boats taking to the water. Brian Marsh was sailing his '**Sangsettia**' and scored 11 points but Dave Costain had to retire his '**Happy Hunter**' which he is still in the process of renovating. Scott Booth had another new model '**Pegasus**' which sailed well and only lost 2 points, Brian King went one better losing only one mark with '**Victoria**'. Both Jason Fleming with '**Cruiser**' & Jason Quayle with '**Loyal Watcher**' managed clear first rounds, so there was a run off against the clock during the second round. Both managed clear scores again but Jason Fleming lost time in the 'going astern' obstacle and had a time of 2 minutes 21 seconds compared to Jason Quayle who was slightly quicker with time of 1 minute 52 seconds.

The next class was the under 1m boats with 4 competitors. Brian King was sailing '**Titan**', Jason Quayle was sailing '**Yessir**', Brian Swinden was sailing his '**George & Mary Webb**' lifeboat and new member Paul Bromley was sailing his recently completed '**Morgawr**' tub boat. Remarkably all skippers got round losing exactly the same score – 1 mark which meant there was a 4 way run off against the clock for that class. Brian Swinden was hampered during his second run because he had lost a rudder and was only steering using the remaining rudder and by adjusting the throttle on both shafts. Times were very similar, but Brian King managed a clean second round with a time of 1 minute 24 seconds to win the under 1m class.

The final class was the mini class for boats under 600mm and attracted 5 entries. John McDermott had a round with '**Colby Girl**' losing 7 marks, next Brian Swinden with '**Janevee**', Jason Fleming with '**Ramburator**' and Brian King with his '**D022**' fishing boat, all losing 5 marks each. The winner of the mini class was Jason Quayle sailing '**Dornoch**' who managed a round losing only 1 mark.

All together a very enjoyable event and nice to see a couple of new members in attendance. Thank you to those who helped set up the course and score the rounds. Photographs of the event will be appearing on our web site in the near future and members are already looking forwards to the next event involving the buoys which is the Tug Towing on 11 May.

Over 1m Competition			
Loyal Watcher	Jason Quayle	0 marks lost + time of 1 minute 52 seconds	1 st place
Cruiser	Jason Fleming	0 marks lost + time of 2 minutes 21 seconds	2 nd Place
Victoria	Brian King	1 mark lost	3 rd Place
Pegasus	Scott Booth	2 marks lost	4 th Place
Sangsettia	Brian Marsh	11 marks lost	5 th Place
Happy Hunter	Dave Costain	5 marks lost – retired	6 th Place

Under 1m Competition			
<i>Titan</i>	Brian King	1 mark lost + time of 1 minute 24 seconds	1 st place
<i>Yessir</i>	Jason Quayle	1 mark lost + time of 1 minute 43 seconds	2 nd Place
<i>Morgawr</i>	Paul Bromley	3 marks lost + time of 1 minute 46 seconds	3 rd Place
<i>George & Mary Webb</i>	Brian Swinden	3 marks lost + time of 2 minutes 22 seconds	4 th Place

Mini Competition			
<i>Dornoch</i>	Jason Quayle	1 mark lost	1 st place
<i>Janeeve</i>	Brian Swinden	5 marks lost	Jt 2 nd Place
<i>Ramburator</i>	Jason Fleming	5 marks lost	Jt 2 nd Place
<i>DO22</i>	Brian King	5 marks lost	Jt 2 nd Place
<i>Colby Girl</i>	John McDermott	7 marks lost	5 th Place

My sincere thanks to Jason Quayle for the report and results, he also managed to get some photographs as well, on the website.

Looking at the results, it was once again a tight competition.

I'm not sure exactly which course was used, but we do try and keep it quite simple, just narrow the gate widths a bit so there's not too many clear rounds.

These types of competition really hone the skippers skills in careful and full control of their charges.

A couple of images, our new member Paul Bromley and tug ***Morgawr***, and Scott Booth's new acquisition ***Pegasus***.



For interest:- In Cornish folklore, the ***Morgawr*** (Cornish: Morgowr, meaning sea giant) is a **sea serpent** that purportedly inhabits the sea near Falmouth Bay, Cornwall, England.

So now you know

Tug Towing Competition Sunday 11 May 2025, Silverdale

An early start for this event as the annual weed problem needed to be overcome before any models could take to the water.

On arrival at 8:45, at the same time as Jason Quayle, we found Jason Flemming afloat in a Pedalo boat and Nigel Latham wearing chest waders already hard at work with grass rakes removing large amounts of floating weed from the area we intended to be using. JQ and myself joined in also gathering large quantities of floating weed from the side, JQ with a garden grass rake and me with a large shopping bag gathering said weed and removing it by tipping it back down the sluice to the River below. A good 45 minutes later we had managed to clear sufficient surface water to set a course. This one I had designed to be quite simple, just seven gates to be negotiated by tug and towed casualty, neither to hit or miss any buoys.

Sign in originated with three classes, over and under one meter, and a new mini class.

There were only two over one meter tugs, **Blazer** (Jason Fleming) and **Northrock** (Scott Booth). JF went first and managed a good round with only 2 points lost. Unfortunately for Scott, his initial rudder problems on set up may have re-occurred, and after several 5's he withdrew.

The under class followed and the competition was much closer. **Yessir**, Json Quayle went first and was doing well until (word of the day) momentum of the casualty over ran an exit gate buoy thus 5 points lost. **TiTo Neri**, Nigel Latham up next and was 15 points down at run's end. **Wyreforce**, Brian Swinden headed into the lead with just 2 points lost on his run. Then me, Kim Holland with **Nudger** achieved a single lost point to creep ahead. **Independent**, John Hancox at the controls (some of the time) encountered that momentum and 9 points lost. I had another go with a newly donated boat to the Club, tug **Carlson**, and again that ever moving casualty lost 2 points. Now the master of the day arrived, **Ramburator** with Jason Fleming. He had the perfect round, CLEAR. It all rested on Nigel Latham's shoulders with his pusher tug **Catharina 5**, sadly dropping 1 point at the first gate.

So the pusher tugs, all towing, led the field. Maybe we should try a push barge about the course one day, perhaps at Mannanan.

We attempted to get the mini tugs underway, but they were not playing the game, my first had rudder problems (now solved), my second had no rudder (my wiring) and Jason Fleming no competition.

A very pleasant morning, with several interested spectators throughout the time we were on the water. Congratulations to JF, two class wins on the day.

Also very glad to welcome along two newer members, not tugging, but having a sail anyway. A **Titanic** to watch out for 'on-the-Water', sorry no name given, and Damir Cvijetic with an upscaled 3D printed test tugboat (normally very small keyfob size). Again apologies to both, neither JQ nor myself had time to get any photos.



Thanks to everyone for their hard work, especially to NL and JF for their weed efforts, and setting out the course and not forgetting our Billy, making good use of his handy cart transporting various items to and fro the car park for all to make use of.

Results as follows

Over 1m Competition			
Northrock	Scott Booth	25	withdrew
Blazer	Jason Fleming	2	1st Place

Under 1m Competition			
Ramborator	Jason Fleming	0	1st Place
Catharina 5	Nigel Latham	1	2 =
Nudger	Kim Holland	1	2 =
Wyreforce	Brian Swinden	2	4 =
Carlson	Kim Holland	2	4 =
Yessir	Jason Quayle	5	6
Independent	John Hancox	15	7
Tito Neri	Nigel Latham	15	8

Other news

One of our regular off Island members and visitor recently made Manx Radio news on the 14th May. Amongst his many activities, it appears visiting drinking establishments that also sell food is quite a hobby, so much so in fact, that he's actually in a league. There are 804 in total...[I looked that up].



Picture credit: Manx Radio

Peter visited his 384th Wetherspoons today (14 May)

A 'Wetherspoons superfan' was among those who queued outside the new 'Conister Arms' branch in Douglas today (14 May).

Peter Iddon and his daughter Janet Wignall

Apparently, this poor man has visited 384 Weathespoons pubs about the UK (and now the IOM) and managed to keep it a secret till now.

Then they gave him a signed menu, yes that's right, a signed menu to celebrate that magnificent achievement but charged for him for their food and drink.

Manx Radio claimed he'd made the trip specially but we all know there was a car-boot sale at Moreton Hall and he was taking cheap stuff back to the UK for re-sale (haha).

And don't forget Janet wants you all to pop along to the Hodgson Loom Gallery, Laxey Woolen Mills, and get voting. She has some of her work on show and would appreciate your support.

A new member in the pipe line has asked me to advertise this model for sale.



The boat is up and running, I. Kim, have seen it and confirm it is in working order. Will Harris intends to join very soon, he has the forms etc.

ALSO Will is asking whether there are any boats that are for sale in the Club. He can be contacted as above or direct questions to me to pass along.

Donated Tugboat and radio gear.

During April Jason Quayle, via the website, received an offer of a boat and radio, unwanted but offered to the Club if of any use. The membership were mailed accordingly, but no one contacted the donor so I collected the item in a clandestine meeting in the old Shoprite car park one evening. Turns out the boat is a Ripmax RTR Tug **Carlson**, 625mm long.

The boat had been stored with all batteries left in, but luckily these had not caused any significant damage. The Pb acid battery was restored and the ESC replaced. Now has 2.4GHz radio.

It was used at the Tug towing last weekend by myself. Now a Club boat unless anyone wants it.



NEXT event will be Vintage Sailing, May 25th Sunday 2 – 4 at the MOORAGH. Yes its within the TT period, so roads are one way over the top. There are no closures scheduled for that day... I shall sort out a poster as soon as I've contacted my sailing mate for confirmation.

Finally.

We have a committee meeting next week, Tuesday, and will be starting to plan and scope out this years Mannanan event.

Please if you have any ideas as to what we should try and do each day pass them along. Basically a similar format to last year with "On-the-Water" Saturday, and "Scale Comp" on the Sunday morning with float game Sunday afternoon. JF and I want to get some Av-a-Go kit in operation as well for any younger visitors etc. Bear in mind there will be that weed problem, we might consider a Friday evening work party to clear weed if necessary.

*Aye, Kim
Editor*

Any errors are always mine, proof reading is a chore, no matter how many times I read through I'll always miss errors and mistakes...